

CBS MORNING NEWS

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[NICARAGUA/KURTIS: The CIA this morning is ordering a full recall [CIA MANUAL] of its much-discussed manual for Nicaraguan rebels. The manual in question is this one, very small. (Videotape shows blue-colored manual, 'Operaciones Sicologias en Guerra de Guerrillas,' Tayacen.) Among other things, it advises the selected use of violence to, quote, 'neutralize government officials.' Some other advice (CBS News GRAPHICS): '...whenever it is necessary to use armed force...in a visit to a town or village--guerrillas should emphasize that the force of weapons is...caused by the oppressive system...' Now another entry: '...a psychological war team should prepare a hostile attitude among the target groups so that at the decisive moment, they can turn their furor into violence.' 'Selective use of violence,' 'armed force,' strong words that have fostered even stronger criticism. But is that criticism justified? Former CIA Director Stansfield Turner on our Morning News Cover today, joining us from Station WOWT, in Omaha, Neb. Good morning, admiral. TURNER: Good morning, Bill.

KURTIS: How are you? Well, that's what it looks like. It's not very big. It's well put together. And it obviously is a manual, all in blue, there. What are the specific violations? ADM. STANSFIELD TURNER (former director, CIA): Well, 8+ years ago, President Ford issued the first presidential directive in writing, saying that the CIA would not participate in assassinations, either directly or indirectly. Every president since has reaffirmed that same written instruction. It's incredible to me that the CIA would today have any Rip van Winkles out there, who haven't been listening for 8+ years to this very explicit instruction.

KURTIS: Well, when you put it down in writing, I guess, that's the shocking thing. TURNER: Yes.

KURTIS: But in a guerrilla war, you're in the jungle. There isn't any fine line of connection with the headquarters in Langley, Va. Isn't it very difficult to hold back on some of the instructions, when killing is the name of the game? TURNER: Yes, but what's really incredible here is what the president said on Sunday night, and that is that this manual was sent to CIA headquarters for review. Then yesterday, the CIA contradicted the president because it indicated that in that review at headquarters, the paragraph concerning 'neutralization,' a synonym for 'assassination,' was not

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excised. It was left in, and the manual was sent back and published for the contras in Nicaragua.

KURTIS: Well, what is the standard operating procedure? What would a regular manual be like, for instance, under your term? TURNER: Well, a regular manual would certainly not include some of these kinds of rather heinous activities, like assassination or like the silly comic-book manual that the CIA also put out down there, and which has not received as much publicity. But it talks about putting sponges in toilets to try to break down the economy of Nicaragua. You know, we want to in the long run, have the people of Nicaragua behind us, not behind the Sandinista government. If they can't operate their toilets, I don't think they're going to be very enthusiastic about our program.

KURTIS: Mm. One question, of course, that underlies all this is whether or not we, in the CIA, have adopted the tactics of the other side, whether they be Viet Cong or, or revolutionary forces moving through Central America. What do you think? TURNER: Well, that's, of course, why the presidents have issued this order on assassination. It's why we have, over the last 10 years, established a system of oversight and controls on what are called 'covert activities' by the CIA. We don't want to sacrifice what we're trying to defend, that is, our morals and our ethics. It's why I believe, also, Bill, the public and the Congress objected strenuously when it was disclosed last April that the CIA had been mining the harbors of Nicaragua. Assassination, mining of harbors, are really state-supported terrorism, such as we've been objecting to in the Middle East. It's our state providing support for people who are attacking innocent third parties.

KURTIS: Those are sort of big acts, though. How do you discipline, as head of the CIA, some of the dirty tricks that may be performed in a covert action? TURNER: Well, I think you have to, in a case like this, simply dismiss the people who were involved in producing and reviewing this kind of a manual. You've got to make an example of people, that the CIA does and has for many years now conformed with the regulations, conformed with the laws of the country.

KURTIS: I guess the example is the key. Adm. Turner, thank you very much... TURNER: Sure.

KURTIS: ...for being with us this morning. In a moment, coming up, we'll hear from the other woman on the Democratic ticket.

Richard Mitchell, Transcriber